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LETTER DATED 23 APRIL 1999 FROM THE CHARGE D'AFFAIRES A.I.
OF THE PERMANENT MISSION OF GERMANY TO THE UNITED NATIONS
ADDRESSED TO THE SECRETARY-GENERAL

I have the honour to bring to your attention a statement on the Korean peninsula by the Presidency of the European Union, issued on 26 March 1999 (see annex).

I should be grateful if you would have the text of this letter and its annex circulated as an official Security Council document.

(Signed) Gerhard Walter HENZE
Chargé d'affaires a.i.
Deputy Permanent Representative of
Germany to the United Nations

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Annex

[Original: English and French]

Statement on the Korean peninsula made on 26 March 1999 by the Presidency of the European Union

The European Union underlines its continued commitment to peace and stability on the Korean Peninsula and its support for the policy of engagement pursued by the Republic of Korea. It welcomes the agreement reached by the United States of America and the Democratic People's Republic of Korea, following talks in New York from 27 February through 15 March 1999. It sees in this agreement a reaffirmation by the United States and the Democratic People's Republic of Korea of their commitment to the Geneva Agreed Framework of 1994.

The European Union also draws attention to the outline agreement reached between the European Commission and the Democratic People's Republic of Korea negotiators which, subject to normal European Union decision-making procedures, would provide for a European Union food aid and agricultural rehabilitation programme for 1999, worth 30 million euro. Moreover, the European Union underscores its willingness to consider holding a second round of political dialogue with the Democratic People's Republic of Korea later this year, depending on progress on the Korean Peninsula.

The Union believes that these developments constitute positive steps towards a lessening of tensions and the building of trust among all parties interested in an improvement of the overall situation on the Korean peninsula.

The Central and Eastern European countries associated with the European Union, the associated country Cyprus and the European Free Trade Association countries Iceland and Liechtenstein members of the European Economic Area align themselves with this statement.